

Square 459 (Commercial Buildings)
Indiana Ave. Between Sixth & Seventh Sts.
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-505

HABS
DC,
WASH.,
312-

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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312-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SQUARE 459

Squares 459 and 460 form the eastern boundary of Market Square. Trapezoidal in plan, Square 459, is bounded on the north by Indiana Avenue and on the south by C Street. Its eastern and western boundaries are Sixth and Seventh Streets.

Taken as a totality, the buildings located on Square 459 are interesting in that they constitute an architectural sampling of Washington's history. The earliest building on the block, perhaps also on the PADC District is the small house at 306 6th Street, which apparently dates from the 1830's. Later commercial architecture of the Nineteenth Century is exemplified by the row structures of 608-614 Indiana Avenue, while the National Bank of Washington embodies the higher stylistic aspirations of the time. The Central Union Mission exemplifies the transitional architecture that made use of the new turn-of-the-century technology but stuck to traditional forms; while its contemporary, the Orienta Coffee Building is of modern expression with very contained, localized ornamentation related to Art Deco styling. Finally, the Office Building at the corner of Sixth and Indiana Avenue is typical of early Twentieth Century functionalist office buildings.

Unlike today, the early fabric of the square consisted principally of narrow row-structures that reached deep into the square. The diversity of mercantile and service-oriented uses of the land that is documented in the City Directories reflects the intensity of commercial concentration around Market Square and in the proximity of Pennsylvania Avenue. These trends were consistent until the 1930's, when the desirability of this location began a constant decline. The prominent western wedge location, however, has been occupied constantly by a bank since 1829. During the late Nineteenth Century a post office occupied the north part of what is now the Central Union Mission.

At present three buildings are vacant and two are used by a fast-food restaurant. There are several law offices dispersed in three of the other buildings, evidently responding to the neighboring D. C. Courts to the east. Central Union Mission still maintains a home for transient children on its seven-story structure. The Romanesque National Bank of Washington building, once one of the institution's principal offices has become a small neighborhood branch occupying a small portion of its original space. Perhaps indicative of the area's imminent revival, the Embassy of Argentina recently purchased the building and uses it as mission offices for its Naval Attache.

INDIANA AVENUE: BETWEEN SIXTH AND SEVENTH STREETS:

- 600 Commercial Building (459-J):
.3/2/1928, #6444: Permit to store material on public roadway.
.2/16/1928, #6162: Permit to erect a four story brick and concrete office building, with gas station on first floor. Cost: \$54,500.00.
.12/27/1927, #4964: Permit to establish a gasoline service station store and office as per plan. Owner: B. D. Friedman and Joseph Cox.
- 608 Commercial Building (459-E):
.4/8/1880, #1203: Permit to build a frame bathroom size 8'-0" x 8'-0" with tin roof. Owner: Mr. Munking; Cost: \$50.00.
- 610 Kirstein Household Office Furniture (459-I):
.2/15/1917, #3454: Permit to construct show windows projecting beyond building line. Owner: Charles J. Berner; Cost: \$180.00.
.11/6/1924, #4558: Permit to repair trap door and steps. Trap door is of iron. Owner: A. Aronstein; Cost: \$40.00.
- 612 Commercial Building (459-H):
.12/3/1879, #773: Permit to make general repairs. Cost: \$2,500.00.
.4/3/1879, #2008: Permit to build a three story brick back building with a tin roof. Owner: T. L. Hume.
.7/7/1925, #184: Build a rear one story addition from walls already in place, and one wall to be repaired as per plan. Owner: D. Hayman; occupied as a furniture storage building; Cost: \$125.00.
- 614 Fields Building (459-G):
.7/16/1907, #189: Permit to build one two-story brick store. Size: 26' width front; deep: 46'-5"; height: 28'-6"; roof: flat; material of roof: tin; access to roof: scuttle; Owner: Paulina Rocca; Architect: Julius Wenig; Builder: Benjamin B. Knell; Estimated Cost: \$5,375.00.
- 624 Central Union Mission (459-B):
.10/8/1923, #3035: Permit to raze building. Owner: Central Union Mission.
.10/15/1923, #3255: Permit to store material on parking lot.
.10/15/1923, #3256: Permit to install a temporary gas heater and shed size: 10' x 18', and saw table on sidewalk. Owner: Central Union Mission.

.11/8/1923, #4102: Permit to build one seven story brick, stone, and concrete mission building. Size: 58'-6" x 108'-5"; Material of Foundation: concrete; Owner: Central Union Mission; Architect: Appleton P. Clark, Jr.; Builder: D. E. Nichol; Cost: \$175,000.00.

SIXTH STREET: BETWEEN INDIANA AVENUE AND C STREET, N.W.

- 300 Browning and Baines Roasting Plant (now La Tourraine) (459-L):
.4/13/1928, #7535: Permit to build one four story brick and concrete building size: 54'-9" x 80'-5" x 56'. Owner: Browning and Baines; Cost: \$75,000.00.
.5/4/1928, #8137: Permit to take down building piece by piece.
.5/5/1928, #8201: Permit to erect one temporary storage shed. Builder: Wardman Construction Company.
.5/31/1928, #8965: Permit to change first floor to alter footings due to change in soil value.
.7/3/1928, #115,393: Permit to install one electric freight elevator. Size: 7'-8" x 8'. Owner: Browning and Baines Roasting Plant.
.7/2/1928, #115,394: Permit to install one electric passenger elevator. Owner: Browning and Baines Roasting Plant.
.3/26/1929, #121, 942: Permit to erect one metal sign size 21' x 3'-8" on roof of building 15" beyond building line with electric lights "Oriental Coffee". Owner: Browning and Baines Roasting Plant; Contractor: L. L. Hayes.
.8/18/1902, #309: Permit to repair show window without enlarging or increasing the projector. Also repair the platform. Size: 6'-3" x 46'-0" on 6th Street. 6'-2" x 43'-4" on C Street. Value: \$75.00; Owner: J. A. Cahill; Mechanic: A. Hester.
- 308 The Golden Bull Restaurant (459-K):
.4/9/1887, #1999: Permit to put in a storefront with two show windows, projecting 2 feet. Material of Construction: brick; Owner: Charles Reinhardt.
.3/22/1930, #131, 430: Permit to store materials on roadway during building operations. Owner: Felice Ianucci.
- 310 .2/12/1889, #1325½: To build a 6' wide front with iron railing. Owner: George P. Hamlin.

.11/6/1889, #988: Permit to build a storm door or vestibule projecting 5' from building line and 6' wide. Building Use: saloon; Owner: George P. Hamlin.

312-316 .2/16/1928, #6193: Permit to erect one temporary fence on parking lot and sidewalk during building operations. Owner: Friedman, Singer and Neistradt.

C STREET: BETWEEN SIXTH AND SEVENTH STREETS, N.W.:

607 McDonald's (459-D):
.5/18/1894, #1685: Permit to build show windows. Cost: \$50.00.

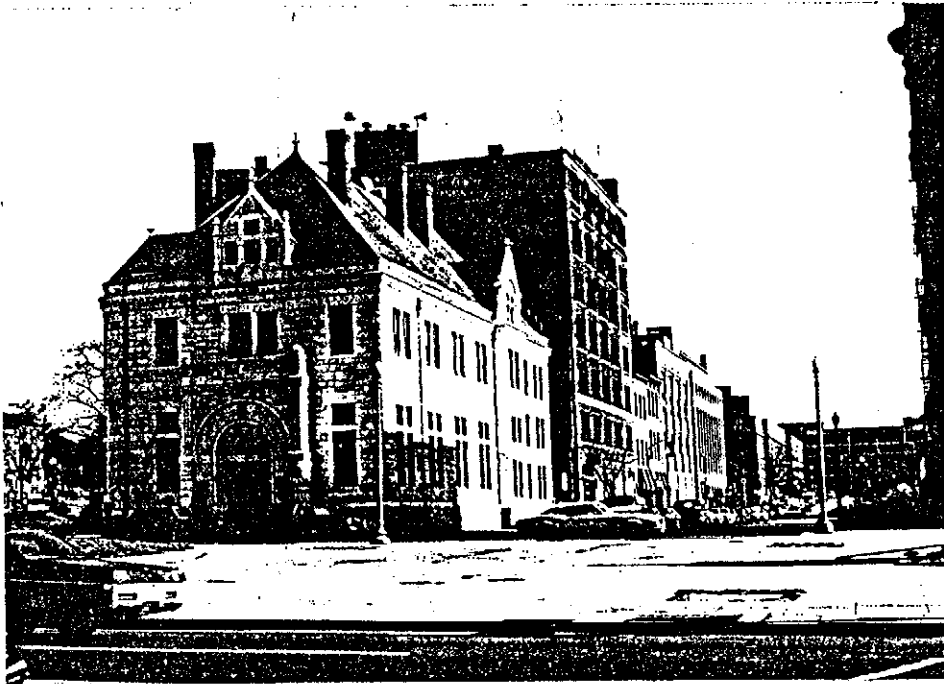
.7/17/1911, #299: Permit to install one electric freight elevator. Size: 4'-4" x 5'-0"; Owner: W. M. Butler; Building Use: store.

.6/31/1933, #165,048: Permit to change control of elevator from hand powered to push button. Owner: Butler Flynn Paint Company.

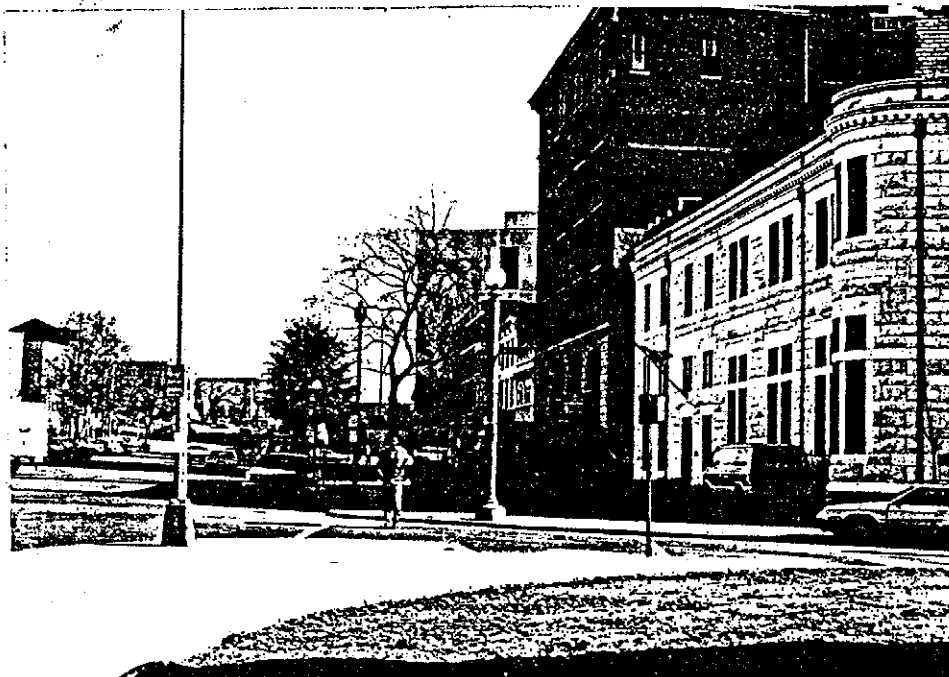
609 McDonald's (459-F):
.4/18/1880, #1772: Permit to excavate an area 3' wide and 4' long to be covered with an iron door. Cost of Improvement: \$25.00.
.4/11/1912, #4568: Permit to repair base of show window. Owner: W. A. Butler, Co.; Contractor: F. R. Heymr; Cost: \$10.00.
.1/22/1924, #6030: Permit to erect one metal and wood sign size 2' x 18' against building line wall - "Butler Flynn Paint Co. Paints & Glass".

SEVENTH STREET: BETWEEN INDIANA AVENUE AND C STREET:

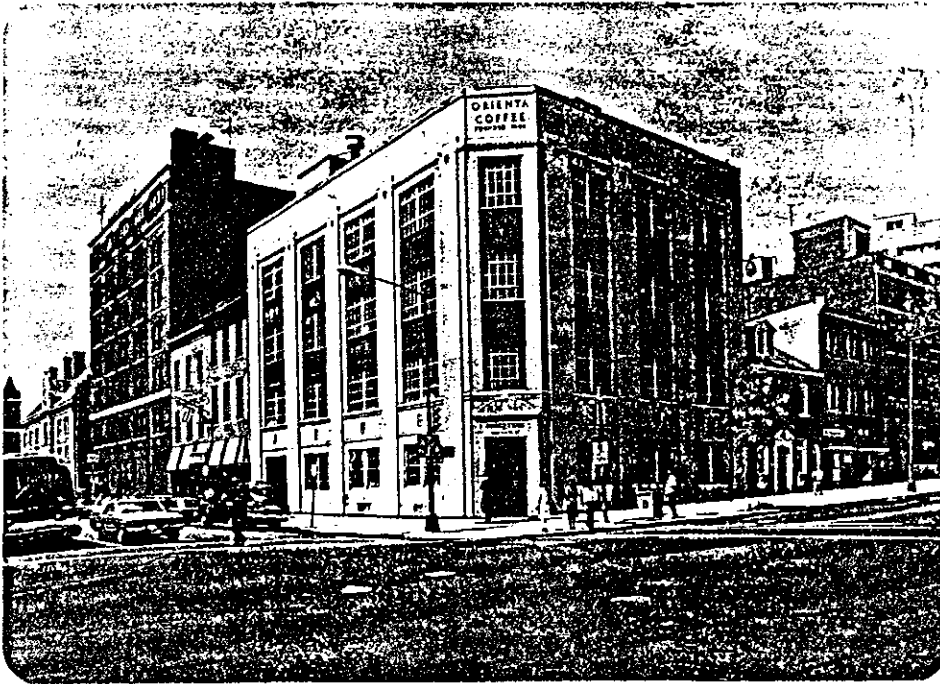
301 National Bank of Washington (459-A):
.4/21/1888, #1831: Permit to erect a bank building two stories high with an attic. Material of Front: marble; Roof: steep, slate, scuttle access; Architect: James G. Hill; Builder: D. J. Macarty; Value: \$54,000.00.
.4/4/1921, #6027: Permit to build new addition to existing bank building. Architect: Wardman and Wagman; Contractor: Harry Wardman; Owner: National Bank of Washington.



West end of Square 459 looking East on C Street



West end of Square 459 looking East on Indiana Avenue



Southeast Corner of Square 459 looking West on C Street



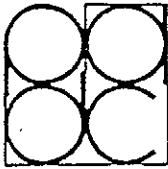
Southeast Corner of Square 459 looking North on Sixth Street



Northeast Corner of Square 459 looking West on
Indiana Avenue



Over-all view of Market Space
Looking East to Square 459



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
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GENERAL CONSULTANTS

ANDERSON NOTTER/MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
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ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
DAVID McLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING EVALUATION
CODE IDENTIFICATION MAP
SQUARE 459

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For documentation of individual buildings within Square 459, see:

A	HABS No. DC-223	National Bank of Washington, 301 7th Street
B	HABS No. DC-511	Central Union Mission, 624 Indiana Ave.
C	HABS No. DC-513	Pendleton and Robinson Law Offices, 306 6th Street
D & F	HABS No. DC-515	607-609 C Street
E	HABS No. DC-510	Fields Building, 614 Indiana Ave.
G	HABS No. DC-509	612 Indiana Ave.
H	HABS No. DC-508	610 Indiana Ave.
I	HABS No. DC-507	608 Indiana Ave.
J	HABS No. DC-506	600 Indiana Ave.
K	HABS No. DC-514	Golden Bull Restaurant, 308 6th Street
L	HABS No. DC-512	Oriental Coffee Building, 300 6th Street

